



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 3/24/11
HB 569
LINDA McCULLOCH

HB 569: Revise state employee salary to 2005
House Taxation, RM 152
March 24, 2011 @ 8 AM
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good morning Mr. Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I strongly oppose House Bill 569 because rolling state wages back six years is, quite frankly, an absurd way to improve the economy. Rolling back wages is not the answer to improving the state budget or our economy.
- State employees are taxpayers, just like their neighbors in the private sector.
In fact, public employee salaries and private sector employee salaries are very much connected. When the wages of one go down or are stagnant, it is likely that the other will follow the same trend.

So it would seem that bills like HB 569 today and the killing of HB 13 are certainly a "Race to the bottom" for Montana wages.
- I don't remember that this 62nd Legislature turned down their raises for this Session or to reduce their salaries from what was earned last Session. And, yes I understand that the raise was voted on by the previous Legislature.
- I understand the bill's sponsor claims he never intended to pass his own bill – if that is true, the taxpayers of Montana are footing the bill for thousands of dollars to pay for this abuse of power.
- This sounds like a game and the taxpayers of Montana didn't sign on to pay for a game of power and authority.
- And, to expect that this bill would "just fade away" (Helena IR March 5, 2011) is setting a precedent that introduced bills can be hidden away in a Committee Chairs' desk and never receive a hearing. That is not Democracy and not the Montana way.
- HB 569 is a slap in the face to the thousands of hardworking Montanans employed by our state government.
- Vote "no" on this bill, so that this Legislature can focus on passing good bills for the people of Montana, the people who are footing the bill for this Session. Thank you for your time.